



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION • P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-001  
(916) 653-6887

Ruth Coleman, Director

September 12, 2007

SEP 14 2007

The Honorable Assemblyman John Laird  
California State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento CA 94249-0027

Dear Assemblyman Laird,

Thank you for your inquiry for information and opinion regarding eradication of light brown apple moth (LBAM) from the Monterey Peninsula. The Department of Parks and Recreation does not employ a full time pest manager who can speak to the biochemical issues of pheromone application for eradication of LBAM. However, I can speak to the consequences of introduced forest pests. The Department is still suffering from two devastating exotic forest diseases in the Monterey area. As you are aware, pine pitch canker has caused extensive mortality in the native and planted Monterey pine stands. In the mid 1990s Sudden Oak Death was diagnosed and has become widespread up and down the coastal counties. The mortality that these two exotic diseases have caused has cost the Department over a million dollars in hazard tree removals, clean up, lost revenue in the developed areas and an increased fire danger in the wildlands.

LBAM is a generalist defoliator with a long host list including such important native conifers as coast redwood, Douglas-fir, grand fir, pine, spruce and cypress species, western red and Port Orford cedars, and native hardwoods including oaks, willows, cottonwoods, Pacific madrone, and California black walnut. It also will attack a multitude of native shrubs including rhododendrons, coyote bush, currants, roses, and sages. In the absence of its native predators and parasites, LBAM could easily explode through California forests causing yet another wave of dead trees and shrubs and the associated costs. It has become exceedingly difficult for Department staff to manage native ecosystems that are repeatedly exposed to such unprecedented disruptions.

The Department of Parks and Recreation strongly supports the efforts of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the US Department of Agriculture to eradicate LBAM before it becomes permanently established. Weighed against the tremendous long term cost and toxic pesticide exposure that Californians will have to endure if forced to live with a permanently established population of LBAM, the risk of human injury from exposure to the target specific insect pheromones Checkmate ORL-F and Checkmate LBAM-F or localized treatments of the insect-specific, biological control bacteria Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) does not appear significant.

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The Department of Parks and Recreation has extensive experience in control of exotic pest species of all types. Obviously, it is significantly less expensive and less environmentally damaging to eradicate a newly introduced pest than it is to attack a large entrenched infestation. LBAM would be particularly troublesome because of its extensive list of host trees and shrubs and because Monterey area forests are already exposed to severe disruptions from other exotic pests. If you have any questions call Stephen Bakken (916-654-9934) or Rick Rayburn (916-653-6725).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruth Coleman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ruth Coleman  
Director